

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 L-03 /083 W

----- 104275

R 300951Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6164

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13578

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, US, TH

SUBJ: SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS NOTIFIED OF US MILIARY DRAWDOWNS

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO CO 388TFW KORAT CO
8TFW UBON CO TASK FORCE DELTA NAM PHONG FM UDORN AUG 30
RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

UDORN 100

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, US, TH

SUBJECT: SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS NOTIFIED OF U.S. MILITARY
DRAWDOWNS.

REF: UDORN 095 (250450Z)

1. SUMMARY: MARINES AT NAM PHONG, USIS KHON KAEN, AND
CONSULATE OFFICERS FROM AUG 27 TO 29 NOTIFIED SENIOR THAI
CIVILIAN, POLICE, AND MILITARY OFFICERS IN KHON KAEN, UBON,
AND KORAT OF IMMINENT U.S. MILITARY DRAWDOWNS AT THREE
BASES IN NORTHEAST. THEY TOLD ADVANCE INFORMATION PASSED
IN CONFIDENCE WHICH THEY PROMISED PROTECT. ALL EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION. END SUMMARY.

2. CO MARINE AIR GROUP 15 NAM PHONG AND USIS BPAO TOLD
KHON KAEN GIVERNOR BURI AUG 27. BURI SAID LITTLE BUT
TOLD MARINES IF THEY HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO THEY WELCOME
STAY NAM PHONG. BPAO NEXT DAY INFORMED MAJOR GENERAL
THAWEE IN KHON KAEN WHO COMMANDS PROVINCIAL POLICE IN
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NORTHERN HALF OF NORTHEAST.

3. VICE CONSUL AUG 29 CALLED ON UBON VICE GOVERNOR WUTHINAN AND MILITARY CIRCLE COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL JUMPHORN. BOTH ASSURED US THAT IF ANY INFORMATION REACHED PRESS IT WOULD NOT COME FROM THEM. VICE GOVERNOR SAID THAT REDUCTION OF ABOUT 800 AIRMEN WE BRIEFED HIM ON WOULD NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON TOWN. BASE CLOSURE HOWEVER COULD BE PSYCHOLOGICAL VICTORY FOR CT AND HE HOPED SERIOUS THOUGHT WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE TIMING OF FURTHER WITHDRAWALS AND ON CLOSURE SO U.S. DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ABANDONING THAILAND. WUTHINAN ALSO ASKED WHETHER CIVIC ACTION COULD BE INCREASED PARI PASSU WITH DRAWDOWNS, PARTICULARLY ALLOWING IT TO EXPAND BEYOND 16 KILOMETER RADIUS. WE REPLIED THIS LARGELY UP TO RTG.
4. VICE CONSUL SAME DAY IN UBON SEPARATELY SAW MAJOR GENERAL CHAYAIST COMMANDER OF PROVINCIAL POLICE IN SOUTHERN HALF OF NORTHEAST. HE SAID HE NOT WORRIED ABOUT EFFECTS OF DRAWDOWN OF DIMENSIONS WE DESCRIBED. IF IN FUTURE LARGE NUMBERS OF UNEMPLOYED RESULT FROM DRAWDOWN, HOWEVER, HE HAS CONTINGENCY PLAN TO ENABLE POLICE TO DEAL WITH INCREASED THEFT OR OTHER PROBLEMS.
5. I CALLED ON GOVERNOR RADOM AND SECOND ARMY DEPUTY CG SAWAT IN KORAT AUG 29. RADOM ASKED ME REPORT HIS POINT THAT IF SOME BASES TO BE CLOSED KORAT WAS GOOD ONE TO LEAVE OPEN BECAUSE OF EXCELLENT SECURITY AND BASE COMMUNITY RELATIONS. SAWAT SAID HE WOULD PASS INFORMATION IN CONFIDENCE TO SECOND ARMY CG PHAYOME.
6. VERY MUCH APPRECIATE COOPERATION BY MARINES AND USISGS BROH-KAHN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO13578
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS UNGER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973087/aaaaaenc.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: UDORN 095 (250450Z)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <27-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS NOTIFIED OF U.S. MILITARY DRAWDOWNS.
TAGS: MARR, US, TH
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005